

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ROBERT M. STEWART ET AL.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: August 29, 2001

Title: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR COAGULATING AND DRYING  
LATEX

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims prior  
to the examination of the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14 as follows:

(A copy of the marked-up version of amended claim 14  
are attached to this Preliminary Amendment).

14. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9,  
wherein the second feeding means is a conveyor belt.

REMARKS

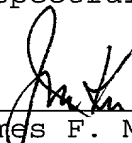
Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Crowell & Moring, LLP., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #817LR/50045).

Respectfully submitted,

August 29, 2001

  
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James F. McKeown  
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-5116  
JFM:kms

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any one or claims 9,] claim 9, wherein the second feeding means is a conveyor belt.